LG- 2012 Assignment- Assessing the candidates

The Candidates:

1. Michele Bachmann 2. Rick Santorum 3. Newt Gingrich 4. Ron Paul

Background to the project:

To gain the Republican nomination Mitt Romney had to defeat a slate of contenders (President Obama didn’t have any contenders for the Democratic nomination). The most formidable rivals are stated above. While Romney was expected to win the nomination it was not guaranteed and at different times each one of the above candidates presented Romney with a serious challenge. The first event in the nomination process is the Iowa caucus, shortly thereafter is New Hampshire, then South Carolina. After the first three there are several primaries that are bunched together, sometimes those events are called Super Tuesday.

You will be allotted 2 class sessions to use the library. You will be expected to use valid internet resources to complete this project.

**Early years; provide a biography of the candidate you are assigned** - Where did they grow up? What kind of economic and social resources were available to them in their formative years? Where did they go to college? What did they major in? Most importantly, what life events appear to have had a significant effect on their outlook and political philosophy? Did they go straight into politics upon graduating college (or HS)?

**The Candidate; also provide an analysis of the individual’s candidacy**- What was their highest political position prior to running? What are three major issues that they presented during their candidacy? What group (constituency) within the Republican party seemed most likely to vote for them? Where did they get the money ($$$) to run? Can you identify a common element to the people and groups who gave them the most money (see [www.Opensecrets.org](http://www.Opensecrets.org) )? In which States were they most successful?

Create a Campaign Poster for your candidate (don’t simply use one already created).

**The finish line: Your conclusion**; why did they fail?

Each group will prepare a 4 to 6 page typed (double spaced) paper. The paper will be graded based upon the following:

1. Accuracy
2. Relevance
3. Analysis
4. Organization
5. Grammar and spelling
6. Resources
7. In text citations and works consulted page

Each group will prepare a presentation to last 10 to 15 minutes to help teach the class about their candidate. Presentations will stated 9/19

Paper & Campaign Poster Due Tuesday September 18, 2012.

Presentations to begin Wed. 9/19/12